

## Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 005121

R 231100Z DEC 75  
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9189

S E C R E T DACCA 6338

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, BG, MASS

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH NEED FOR MILITARY HARDWARE

1. TOWARD CONCLUSION OF TODAY'S MEETING WITH TABARAK HUSAIN ON OTHER SUBJECT, HE SAID HE WISHED TO RAISE QUESTION OFF RECORD AT THIS TIME AND QUITE PRIVATELY ABOUT HOW BDG MIGHT GO ABOUT ACQUIRING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM USG. SAID HE DID NOT WISH ANSWER NOW, BUT WOULD COME BACK LATER WHEN HE NEEDED MORE DETAILS FOR PREPARATION OF PROPOSALS TO PRESIDENT. HE OBVIOUSLY KNOWS OUR GENERALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON THIS ISSUE, AND HE ALSO IMPLICITLY KNEW IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO GO BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION.

2. FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID HE WAS AWARE THAT THIS QUESTION HAD BEEN INFORMALLY EXPLORED BY OTHERS AND WITH OTHER MISSIONS BUT HE WAS SEEKING TO BRING THIS UNDER BETTER FOREIGN MINISTRY COORDINATION. ALSO AT THIS HIGHLY PRELIMINARY STAGE, HE DID NOT WISH TO RUN THE QUESTION THROUGH THEIR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. I INTERPRET THIS SIGNAL TO MEAN DEPARTMENT SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THIS WITH AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI NOW.

3. TABARAK SAID BDG WAS COMING UNDER PRESSURE TO DO SOMETHING TO UPGRADE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO RAISE MORALE IN ARMED FORCES. HE WAS AFRAID THAT THEY MIGHT BE FORCED TO GO IN UNDESIRABLE (AND UNSPECIFIED) DIRECTIONS TO SATISFY  
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THESE PRESSURES. AT THE SAME TIME HE ADMITTED IT WOULD NEED

TO BE DONE IN A WAY THAT WOULD NOT VIOLATE THEIR NON-  
ALIGNED POSTURE. HE TRIED TO STRESS THAT HE WAS ONLY  
TALKING ABOUT QTE NON-LETAHAL UNQTE INTERNAL SECURITY  
EQUIPMENT.

4. COMMENT. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS ASIDE,  
THE THRUST OF TABARAK'S INQUIRY IS NOT FOR A USG DECISION  
AT THIS TIME BUT INFORMATION ABOUT PROCEDURES. HE NEEDS TO  
KNOW HOW THE BDG WOULD GO ABOUT REQUESTING THE USG FOR SUCH  
EQUIPMENT EITHER ON A SALES BASIS OR UNDER SOME FORM OF  
ASSISTANCE, I.E., HOW TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS.

5. MANY OF US HAVE BEEN WONDERING WHEN THIS PITCH WOULD  
BE ELEVATED FROM THE INFORMAL PROBES TO THIS LEVEL, EVEN  
ON THIS EXPLORATORY BASIS. ALTHOUGH HE IS ONLY ASKING  
FOR QTE PROCEDURES ENDQTE, IT MAY NOW BE TIME--EVEN WITH  
THEIR UNCERTAIN GOVERNMENT--TO DEFINE WITH GREATER  
PRECISION OUR POLICY REGARDING SUPPLY OF ARMS TO BANGLADESH.

6. ACTION: EARLIEST GUIDANCE REQUESTED.

7. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS TO NEW DELHI.  
CHESLAW

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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